



# *News Release*

## Arizona Department of Public Safety

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **DPS Director assigns officers for traffic control at the intersections of Carefree Highway & Interstate17**

DPS Director Roger Vanderpool announced today that starting Friday, January 6<sup>th</sup>, 4 DPS officers will be assigned to provide traffic control at the north valley intersections of Carefree Highway and I-17. DPS officers, assigned on overtime, will begin directing traffic Monday – Friday, from 7:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. and from 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. at the intersections.

Representative Pamela Gorman (R-Anthem), during a meeting with DPS before the holidays, asked for DPS officers to provide traffic control at the intersections on both sides of I-17 during the morning and evening commute. At this location, the intersections are the jurisdictional responsibility of the City of Phoenix, however the traffic flow at these intersections impact traffic exiting and entering I-17. DPS initially attempted to assist Phoenix by having regularly scheduled officers monitor the intersections without utilizing overtime. However, the volume of calls for service on the Interstate prevented DPS from consistently keeping officers stationed at the intersections during commute times.

DPS' resources are committed to the holiday DUI task forces during this time of year. Now that the holidays are over DPS Director Vanderpool has decided to reassign officers on a regular basis to these intersections. Officers providing this coverage will be in an overtime capacity. It is estimated DPS will expend over \$25,000 in overtime funds for this program.

The complexities of the intersections require a minimum of four officers to safely provide traffic control for the public. DPS officers will provide the traffic control until the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) is able to install temporary traffic signals at the on/off-ramp intersections. ADOT anticipates completion of the temporary signals sometime in February.